

Lemerig language

Lemerig (sometimes also called *Pak*, *Päk*, or *Sasar*) is an Oceanic language spoken on Vanua Lava, in Vanuatu.

Lemerig is no longer actively spoken. The 2 remaining speakers live on the northern coast of the island.^[3] The language has receded in favour of its neighbours Mwotlap and Vera'a.^[1]

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Phonology

Lemerig has 11 phonemic vowels. These are all short monophthongs /i ɪ ɛ æ a œ ø ɸ ɔ ʊ u/.^[4]

Lemerig vowels

	Front		Back
	plain	round	
<u>Close</u>	<u>i</u>		<u>u</u>
<u>Near-close</u>	<u>ɪ</u>	<u>ø</u>	<u>ʊ</u>
<u>Open-mid</u>	<u>ɛ</u>	<u>œ</u>	<u>ɔ</u>
<u>Near-open</u>	<u>æ</u>		<u>ɸ</u>
<u>Open</u>	<u>a</u>		

Grammar

The system of personal pronouns in Lemerig contrasts clusivity, and distinguishes four numbers (singular, dual, trial, plural).^[5]

Spatial reference in Lemerig is based on a system of geocentric (absolute) directionals, which is in part typical of Oceanic languages, in part innovative.^[6]

References

Lemerig	
Native to	Vanuatu
Region	Vanua Lava
Native speakers	2 (2010) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian - Malayo-Polynesian - Oceanic - Southern Oceanic - Vanuatu - North Vanuatu - Torres–Banks Lemerig
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	lrz
Glottolog	leme1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/leme1238) ^[2]

1. François 2012, p. 87.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Lemerig" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/lanuoid/id/leme1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. List of Banks islands languages (<http://alex.francois.free.fr/AF-field.htm#Vanuatu>).
4. François 2011, p. 194.
5. François 2016.
6. François 2015, pp. 169–170.

Bibliography

- François, Alexandre (2011). "Social ecology and language history in the northern Vanuatu linkage: A tale of divergence and convergence" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2011_JHL1-2_Social-ecology_Vanuatu.pdf) (PDF). *Journal of Historical Linguistics*. **1** (2): 175–246. doi:10.1075/jhl.1.2.03fra (<https://doi.org/10.1075%2Fjhl.1.2.03fra>)..
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- — (2015). "The ins and outs of *up* and *down*: Disentangling the nine geocentric space systems of Torres and Banks languages" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2015_North-Vanuatu-space-directionals.pdf) (PDF). In Alexandre François; Sébastien Lacrampe; Michael Franjeh; Stefan Schnell (eds.). *The languages of Vanuatu: Unity and diversity*. Studies in the Languages of Island Melanesia. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics. pp. 137–195. ISBN 978-1-922185-23-5.
- — (2016). "The historical morphology of personal pronouns in northern Vanuatu" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2016_History-personal-pronouns_north-Vanuatu_s.pdf) (PDF). In Pozdniakov, Konstantin (ed.). *Comparatisme et reconstruction : tendances actuelles. Faits de Langues*. **47**. Bern: Peter Lang. pp. 25–60..

External links

- A book of traditional stories (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_Storian-Lemerig_2006.pdf), monolingual in Lemerig.
- Audio recordings in the Lemerig language (https://pangloss.cnrs.fr/corpus/list_rsc_en.php?lg=Lemerig), in open access, by A. François (source: *Pangloss Collection*).

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